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Negro Plays Down N.Y. Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (UPI)—Black militant Charles Kenyatta said Thursday anti-Semitism existed in the Negro community but nowhere near the extent indicated by Jewish leaders.

Kenyatta criticized "rabbis and politicians" for blowing up black anti-Semitism "all out of proportion," a development he said could bring reprisals against Negroes by Jewish merchants.

In a news conference called to discuss the current trouble between Jews and Negroes in New York, Kenyatta recommended a "peaceful conference" to establish a dialogue between the black and Jewish communities in order to head off further distrust and hostility between them.

Criticizes Leaders

At the same time, Kenyatta, who is the leader of the Harlem Mau Mau Society, attacked "so-called black leaders" Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, Whitney M. Young Jr. of the Urban League and Roy Innis of CORE for not speaking out "to counteract this growing anti-black sentiment."

Kenyatta said they would not because they "are funded or are on the payroll of Jewish interests . . . It would be in the nature of biting the hand that is feeding them."

Kenyatta said he felt that "it is not only important, but urgent that each group, black, white, Jewish, and gentile, enter into an admittedly agonizing re-examination of themselves and their own philosophies.

"It is my hope that the Jewish people will not use small incidents from this period of history to exercise Nazism against black people."

The American Jewish Congress in a full-page advertisement in the New York Times today, called for strengthening of the "natural alliance between Negroes and Jews" as an antidote to the increasing friction.

The Congress cited the role of Jews in the civil rights struggle and noted that the founder of the Congress, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, was a founder of the NAACP.

Pressure on Station

Meanwhile, members of the Jewish Defense League vowed today to keep pressure on radio station WBAI after a demonstration in front of the station's studio to protest the reading of an allegedly anti-Semitic poem on the air.

Four young men were arrested Thursday night when 150 pickets and counter-pickets clashed in the street. Order was restored by 75 policemen who had to close off the block where the station is located during the peak of the disturbance.

Pickets from the Jewish Defense League protested the reading of a poem by school teacher Leslie Campbell last Dec. 26 that described Albert Shanker, head of the teachers' union, as "Jew boy." The counter-pickets said they supported "freedom of broadcast."